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The President's Environmental Youth Awards

"As future adults and just as people, we have a responsibility to take care of the earth. . . .If more young people get involved, it will show the older people there is hope."

Bill Buck,
A 1987 National Winner

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1987 National Winners

The President's Environmental Youth Awards program encourages individuals, schools, summer camps, and youth organizations to promote local environmental awareness and to channel this awareness into positive community involvement. Projects may involve just about any constructive form of environmental activity: for example, restoring damaged environments, protecting sensitive wetlands, or enhancing community interest and involvement in environmental activities.

With over 100,000 public and private schools as well as thousands of summer camps and youth organizations in the country, there is great potential for environmental achievement. Young people everywhere are invited to participate in the President's Environmental Youth Awards program, which offers them, individually and collectively, an opportunity to become an environmental force within their community.

"In our youth we take hold of principles and ideals which will mark the path of our lives. In learning more about the environment, young Americans can learn to protect and conserve that which they have been given. I enthusiastically endorse the school and scouting ecology programs which give America's youth that opportunity."

President Ronald Reagan

"Our environment is a heritage held in trust for the future generations. We must develop a firm commitment among our nation's youth for a clean environment. Their dedication to preserving the resources of America is vital to the continued improvement of our quality of life. The President's Environmental Youth Awards program offers an opportunity for youth to direct their energies for a better future."

Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency

Lee M. Thomas

How the Program Works

If you are a young person from kindergarten to the twelfth grade, you can receive special recognition for participating in environmental projects. Through these projects, you can contribute to the well-being of your community, as well as gain valuable experience for your future education and career choices.

The program has two components: the local certificate program and the national awards competition. The certificates are awarded by the regional offices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The national awards are selected by the regional offices and administered through EPA's headquarters in Washington, DC. You can apply for either or both of the awards. To apply, you must complete an environmental project sponsored by an adult representative of your school, camp, or youth group.

Examples of Projects

You can help promote a clean environment in a variety of ways. You can choose work-oriented projects directly affecting the land, such as litter cleanup campaigns, adopt-a-beach programs, and river cleanup projects. You can also design and implement projects to increase public awareness of environmental concerns, or study environmental issues through science experiments and projects. Examples of these various kinds of projects include:

- A California high-school junior organized local citizens and groups for a "Day of Environmental Awareness." He used information booths, speakers, and videos to educate people in the community about environmental protection.

- In a science fair project, a West Virginia student researched a local environmental problem related to acidified mine drainage.

- Students in a New Jersey elementary school picked up litter, recycled valuable materials, tested bay waters for pollution, and rebuilt a nature trail.

- A class of fourth-grade students in Maine tested their school for radon, raised money to buy a pH meter to test local waters for acid, prepared class bulletin boards on environmental issues, cleaned up the school grounds, wrote letters to public officials on environmental concerns, passed out litter bags to promote environmental awareness, and wrote a pollution poetry book.

- Students in a Brooklyn, NY, junior high school designed and operated an Environmental Studies Laboratory where students could learn about and monitor the activities of plants, fish, and animals.

Local Certificate Program

If you complete a project in the local component of the program, you will receive a certificate signed by the President honoring you for your efforts in environmental protection.
To Apply: Ask your sponsor to complete the attached application and mail it to the appropriate EPA Regional Office for your state. (See back page.) The certificate program is conducted year-round, and applications can be submitted at any time.

National Awards Competition

If your project is one that produced a significant result, we encourage you to apply separately for a national award. The national award honors the ten most outstanding projects nationwide, one from each of the ten EPA regions.
Award: National individual winners, or one representative from a national award-winning group project, and the project sponsor will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, to participate in the annual National Awards Ceremony and to advise EPA's Youth Work Group on how to improve the President's Environmental Youth Awards Program.

To Apply:

1. *Eligibility*. To be eligible, you must have completed an environmental project while in grades K-12. If you were in grades K-6, you will apply in the junior division. Grades 7-12 will apply in the senior division. Past winners cannot resubmit the same project, even if it is ongoing. You must work with an adult sponsor to submit a national award application.

2. *Procedures*. Although we encourage creativity, we require that your application conform to the following general guidelines:

- The sponsor(s) must sign the national award application.

- The applications must summarize the project in no less than three and no more than five 8-1/2" x 11" pages, not including supporting materials. These additional materials may include mounted photographs, news clippings, and other supplemental materials, including full texts of scientific papers. Please write only on one side of the paper. Typed applications are encouraged, but neatly handwritten applications are acceptable.

- Sponsors are strongly encouraged to address the criteria that the regional judging panel will use to evaluate applications, and to incorporate photographs, newspaper articles, and other types of promotional materials into the application. Because the panel will not be able to visit the project, applications should be tailored to help the panel "see the work."

- On a separate sheet of paper, attached to the front of the 3 to 5 page application, please list the names of participants, an address and telephone number where the sponsor can be reached, and the signature of the sponsor. Please indicate whether the application is for a junior or senior division project.

3. *Timing*. National award applications must be postmarked by August 31. To apply, your project must have been completed in the year preceding the August 31 deadline. Mail the application to the appropriate regional office listed for your state.

4. *Judging*. Each EPA Regional Office will convene an Awards Panel to review the applications and select the winner.

5. *Judging criteria*. The panel will judge the projects on:

- Accomplishments.

- The need for and benefits derived from the project.

- The extent to which you designed and coordinated the project on your own initiative.

- The extent to which other groups or individuals were organized to provide the necessary funds, resources, and publicity.

- The environmental appropriateness of the project.

- Innovativeness/uniqueness.

- Relevance of the activity to present and future impact(s) on society.

- Choosing a project that benefits the local community.

- Soundness of approach, rationale, and (if applicable) scientific design.

- Clarity and effectiveness of presentation.

Role of the Sponsor

Your adult sponsor plays an important role in helping you complete your project and apply for an award. He or she should offer suggestions and advice on:

- Developing a sound approach to the project.

- Working with other groups and individuals in the community.

- Completing the application forms and materials.

Your sponsor must be an adult, and can be a teacher, group leader, summer camp counselor, or community leader. You should work closely with your sponsor throughout the project and application procedures.

If you or your sponsor have any questions, please contact the appropriate EPA Regional Office listed on the back of this brochure. Good luck!

United States Environmental Protection [redacted] umber 2090-0007 Expiration April 30, 1990

President's Environmental Y[redacted]on

This is a voluntary program. Applications should be completed only by those who wish to participate

School, Camp, or Youth Group Circle One

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sponsor

Name _____ Tel (Code) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Project

Describe Project and Results Achieved

Number of Certificates Required _____

Project Dates

Beginning _____

Ending _____

Presentation Date or Last Day of Term _____

Name organizations which helped on project and describe how they helped.

Did Project Receive Press Coverage

☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" attach Press Clippings

On a separate sheet of paper, please list the name(s) of individuals qualifying for awards. Print or type the name(s).

Signatures Application must be signed by three adults.

_____ _____ _____

EPA Offices and States Served

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617-223-7210

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EPA Headquarters
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460
202-382-4454

Past National Winners and Sponsors Had This To Say About The 1987 National Ceremony:

"The ceremony, the sight-seeing, the accommodations, all of it, experiences we will never forget. It gave meaning to what we have done. It gave all of us here at Guthrie Center Elementary School a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment for our project."

Belva Peterson and
Audrey Charter,
Guthrie Center, Iowa

"I like learning about the other winning projects. It made me want to try some of the experiments in my town."

Nathan Martell,
Woodland, Maine

"It was the highlight of my teaching career. I hope others in the future will be able to experience all of the positive things that we did."

Lee Bowen,
Bellevue, Washington

"I have never felt more honored and I will cherish the memory."

Chuck Clark,
Buena Vista, Colorado

"We were made to feel very special and our work and concern with the environment was recognized and validated in a very personal way."

Sharon Koenig,
Uvalde, Texas